

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant(s):** Tomohisa Sakurai, et al.

**Examiner:** Unassigned

**Serial No:** Unassigned

**Art Unit:** Unassigned

**Filed:** Herewith

**Docket:** 14357A

**For:** SURGICAL OPERATION SYSTEM

**Dated:** July 28, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, it is respectfully requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified patent application.

1. U.S. Patent No. 6,017,354, dated January 25, 2000, issued to Culp, et al.;
2. Japanese Application Laid Open No. 2000-271135 (P2000-271135A), dated October 3, 2000 together with English language abstract;

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: July 28, 2003

  
Steven Fischman

3. Japanese Application Laid-Open No. 6-296589, dated October 25, 1994 together with English language abstract;
4. Japanese Application Laid-Open No. 9-38098, dated February 10, 1997 together with English language abstract; and
5. Japanese Application Laid-Open No. 8-164148, dated June 25, 1996 together with English language abstract.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are not provided since they were previously made of record in parent application Serial No. 09/794,864 filed February 27, 2001. The references were cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the application on February 27, 2001 and on Form PTO-892 of the Office Action dated November 27, 2002.

Consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested, since the information provided herewith may be material to the examination of the present application as defined under 37 C.F.R. §1.56. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been performed or that no other art than that identified herein exists.

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrent with the filing of the present application. Therefore, this filing is made under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1). An Information Disclosure Statement filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1) requires neither certification nor fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.